Since there was no loss to the farmers, the question of compensation does not arise.

Arid Zone Forestry Research Centre, Jodhpur

1691. SHRI B. L. PANWAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the construction work of the Arid Zone Forestry Research Centre at Jodhpur in Rajasthan is likely to be completed and by when it will start functioning; and

(b) what was the total outlay on this project initially and what is the present estimate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Orders for setting up the Institute of Arid Zone Forestry Research, Jodhpur have been issued in April, 1988. The construction work in respect of the buildings of the Institute is likely to be started in 1989-90. An amount of Rs. 235.55 lakhs has been sanctioned for the project during seventh five year plan which includes capital and revenue expenditure.

News-item captioned 'Ganga Schemes may be delayed till 1993'

1692. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Times of India of the 12th February, 1989 under the caption 'Ganga' schemes may be delayed till 1993' if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what action Government propose to take to expedite the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the news item quoted and which refers to alleged delays that are likely to occur in the implementation and award of contracts for the construction of certain sewage treatment plants. Under the Ganga Action Plan 262 schemes at a cost of Rs. 258.44 crores have been sanctioned. Of these, 50 schemes have already been completed and a large majority of the remaining interception and diversion schemes are likely to be completed before the end of the 7th Five Year Plan. Work on some of the sewage treatment plants is likely to carry over into the 8th Plan. The Ganga Project Directorate in the Ministry of Environment and Forests is closely liaising with the implementing agencies and the concerned State Governments and monitoring the progress to ensure that the time schedules are adhered to.

Opening of Closed Textile Mills

1693. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of textile mills in the country which are lying closed as on 31st January, 1989; and

(b) what steps Government are taking for their reopening?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) As on 31-1-89, 140 cotton-made fibre textile mills are lying closed in the country.

(b) A decision regarding re-opening of the mills depends on their viability being established before the Nodal Agency/Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction. This, in turn, depends on the response of the

management and State Govt. Out of the 72 such closed mills examined by the Nodal Agency only 17 were found liable. They have been advised to examine the cases of remaining closed mills and to expedite preparation of rehabilitation packages for viable mills. Non-viable mil s may have to close down permanently.

Export of Textiles to Singapore

1694. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the year since when Government are exporting textiles to Singapore;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to increase the export of textiles in the coming years;

(c) if so, the total value of textiles exported to Singapore during the last three years; and

(d) the steps being taken to boost the export of textiles in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (d) India has been exporting textiles to Singapore for the past several years. The total value of exports of ready-made garments and cotton textiles from India to Singapore during the last three years is given below:—

Year	Export (Rs. Crores)
1986	15.15
1987	29.34
1988	38.60

A statement indicating the steps taken to boost export of textiles is attached (See below). These measures are also applicable for exports to Singapore.

Statement

A number of initiatives have been taken by the Government in the recent past for giving a boost to the exports of textiles and garments. Some of the major decisions which contributed to the growth in exports are listed below:—

(i) Sophisticated garment manufacturing machines not manufactured indigenously are allowed to be imported on OGL. As many as 118 machines for garments and hosiery manufacture have been placed under OGL, 108 of them enjoying concessional import duty. 32 machineries required for the woollen industry and 22 machineries required for the textile industry are also allowed to be imported at a concessional duty.

(ii) In order to encourage improvement in the quality of cotton yarn and fabrics, excise duty on Auto-Coners, Open end Rotor Spinning machines, Shuttleless looms of all types and Two for One Twister has been reduced from 15% to 5%.

(iii) A textile modernisation fund of Rs. 750 crores has been created for facilitating modernisation of textile industry.

(iv) A long term policy for the export of cotton yarn with liberal ceilings had been announced. The ceiling for the year 1989 has been fixed at 40 million kgs. for cotton yarn of counts upto 60s. There is no restriction on the export of cotton yarn above counts 60s.

(b) The Blanket Import Export Pass Book Scheme has been designed to give garment exporters the freedom and flexibility to import duty free the needed inputs quickly to meet the needs of fast changing fashion oriented industry which requires time bound execution of export orders. The issue of Blanket Import Export Pass Books for the